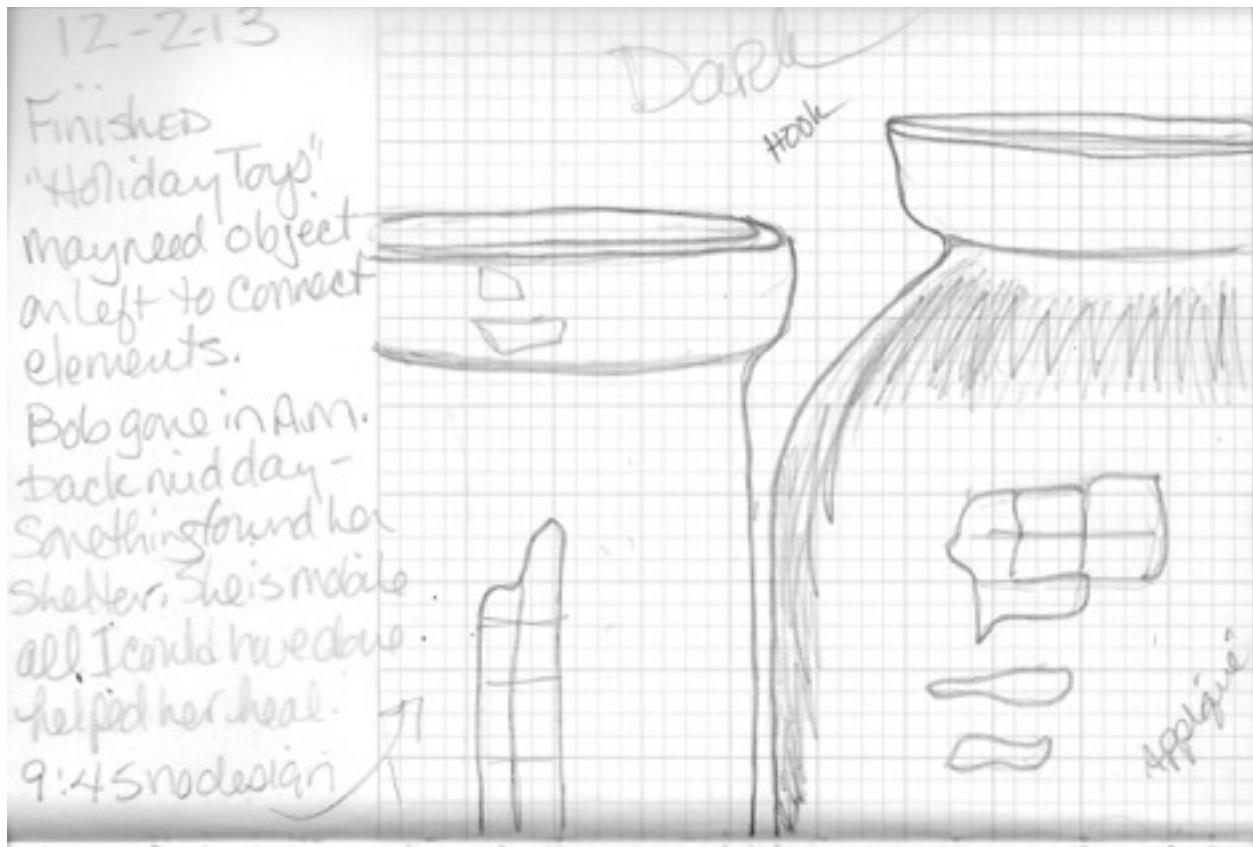


The subject was a sprig of holly in a vase on our kitchen table. One of my goals is to improve eye to hand interpretation. Drawing specifically helps the process of looking and really seeing.

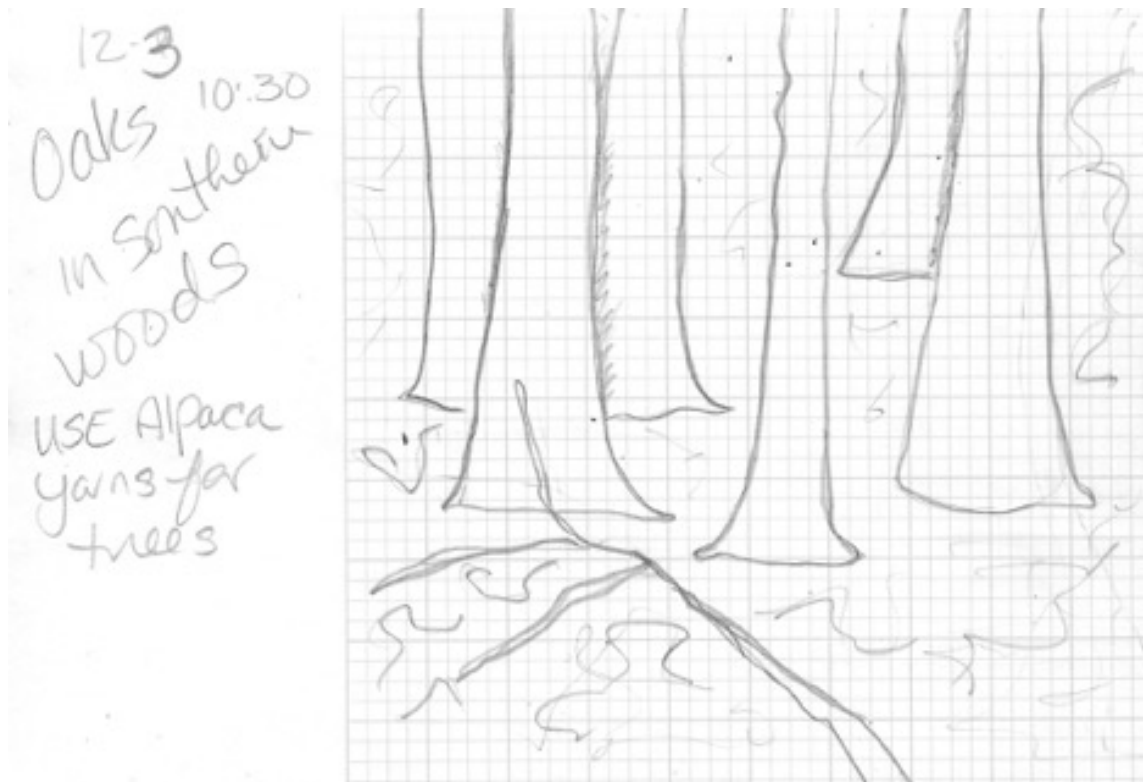
The two entries illustrate a lesson used repeatedly through this series. Consider how will the design actually be constructed. What learned skills and materials are available to use? Can the sketch be interpreted with these tools? If NO then modify.

In this case I enlarged the design while simplifying the composition. Because the end result was very specific I penned over the pencil sketch in order to trace and transfer to backing.



Early on in this project I continued to enter a design **daily** in the journal. It was 9:45 pm and I looked across the kitchen to a display of crocks. The reflections off smooth stoneware glazes and shadows between the two seemed to be good subjects.

The roundness called to me to be portrayed. I could have carefully selected values of wool finely cut and hooked the entire piece. But instead chose subtle textured wools cut into the shape of each crock. They were slightly stuffed for volume while stitching onto the backing. Using embroidery floss and other fabric the details were added. Hooking added another texture and dimension.



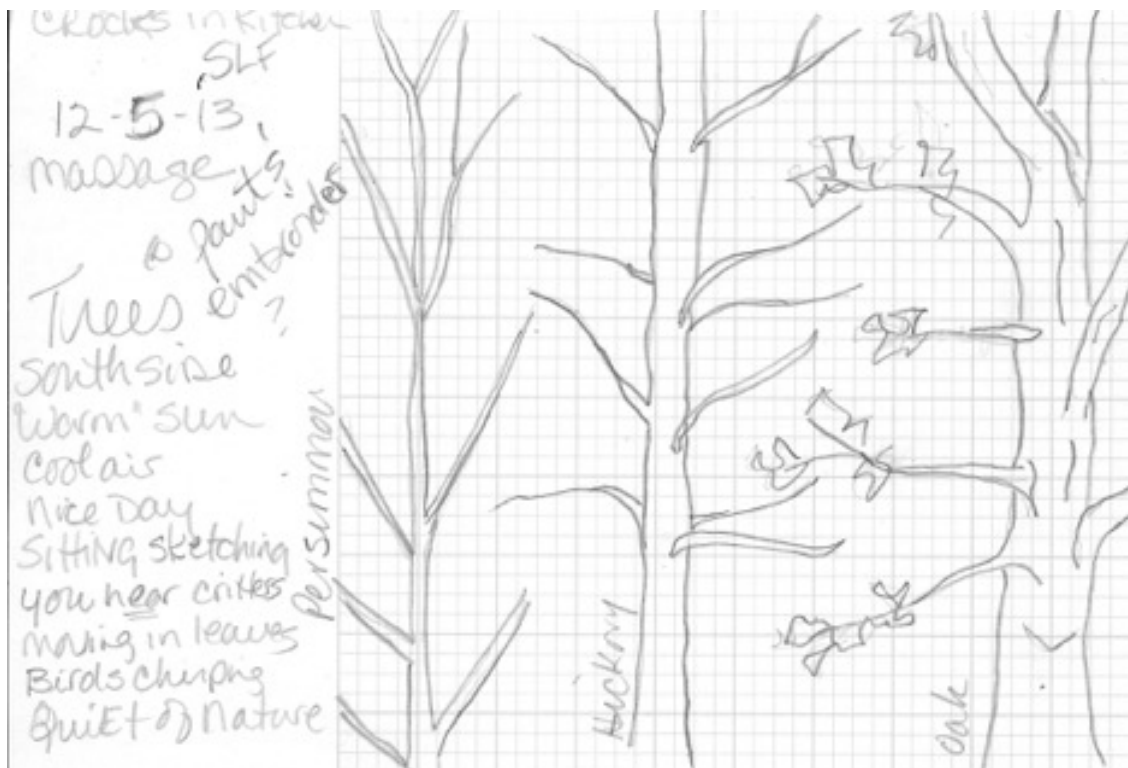
Our woods are easy sources for subjects. Hooking the trees vertically and the background horizontally in the light color the extended height is perceived.

The branch in foreground ending in long stitches draws attention.



The Bluebirds returned in a flock. Their cheerful song and color against a bright blue sky made me happy.

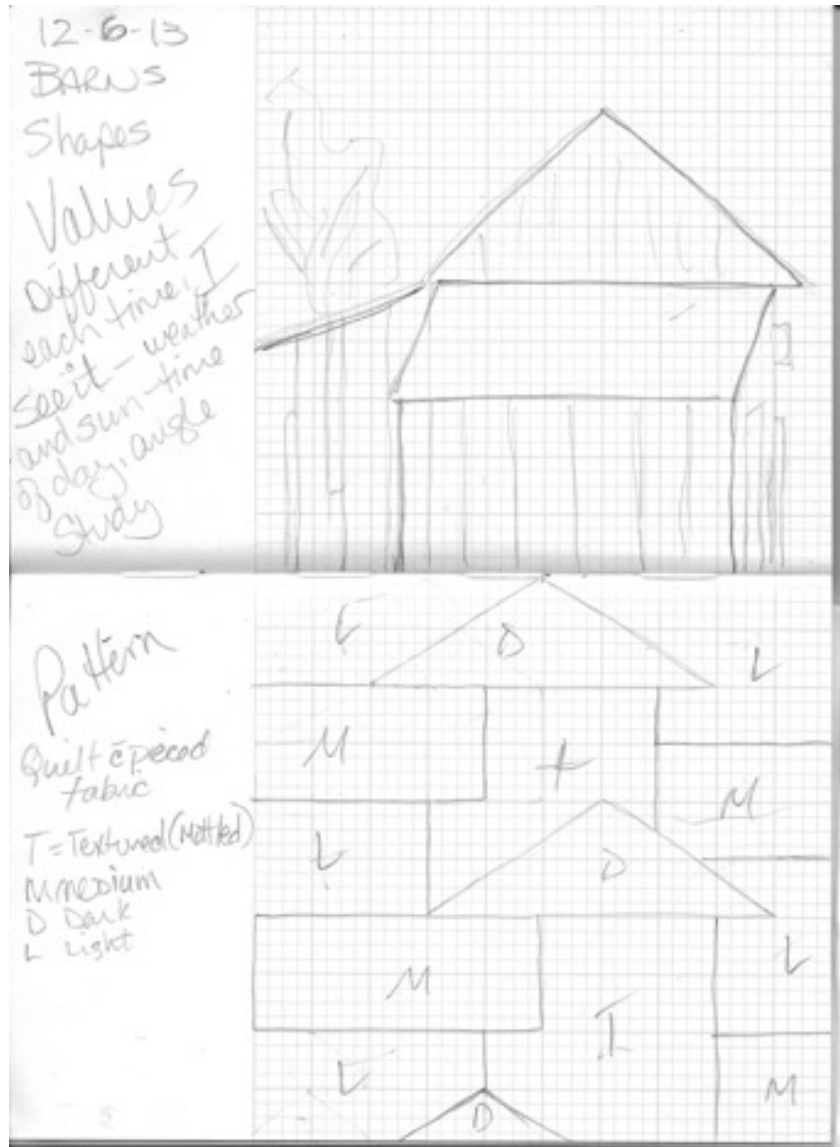
Filling the square with several parts I conveyed the flock of birds.



Now the trees can be identified by their growth structure. Each species has different bark and tree patterns.

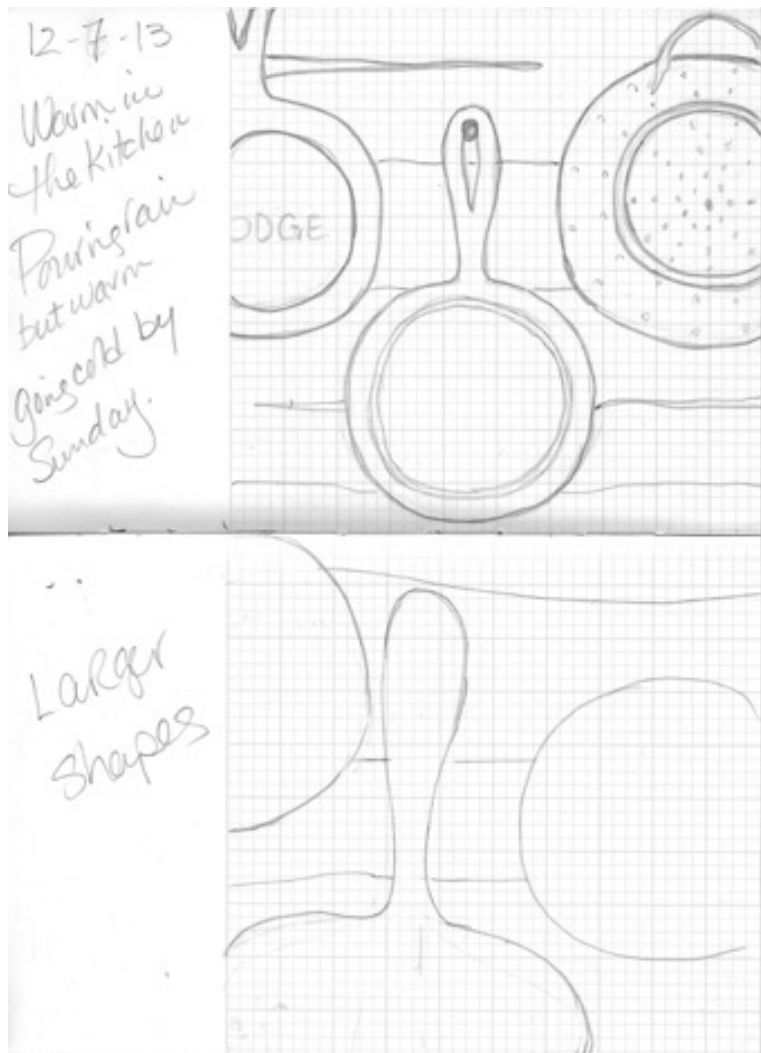
Persimmon, Hickory (young shag bark), and oak each contribute fruit for the wildlife. I decided to use different colored threads and embroider this study on weavers cloth.

Each stitch developed the particular tree.



The barn across from our lane is a repeating source for design in this collection. I began with the studies challenging myself to look at the parts which make up the motif. Depending on the time of day shadows and light changed my attention. When snow lay on the roof we would see the dark wood walls.

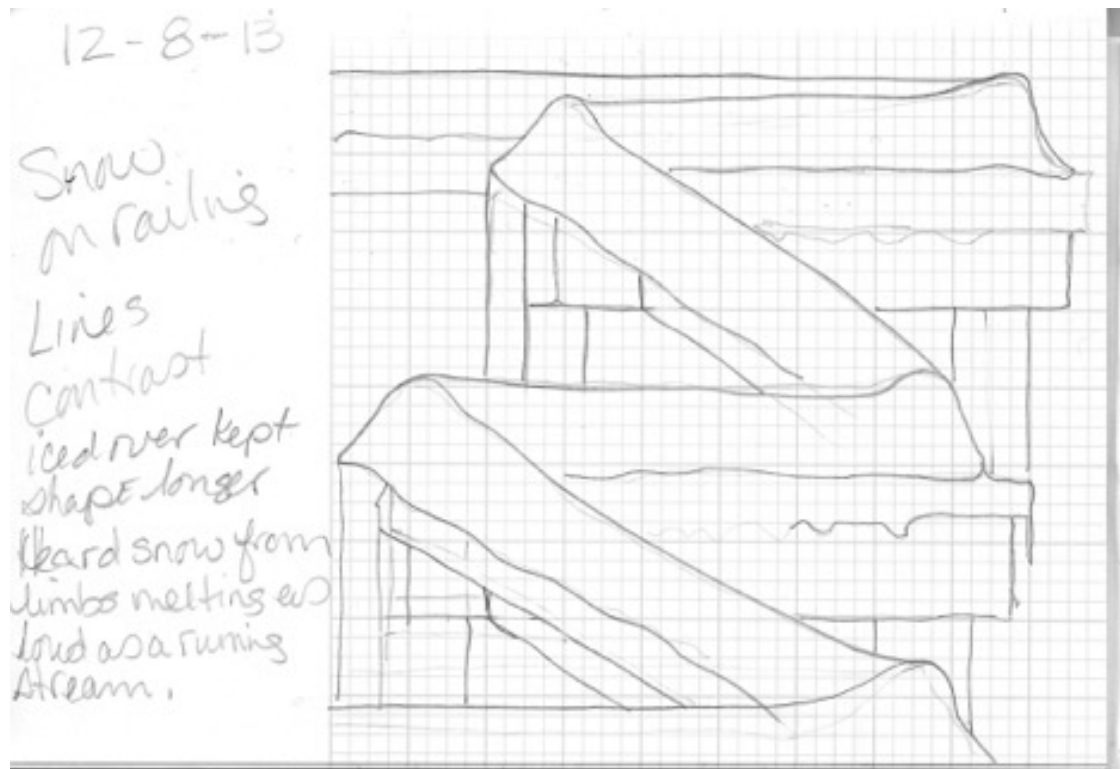
This square is a “painterly” approach although I used #6 strips (6/32” wide) limiting the details and nuances of wood.



Our collection of cast iron and pots hanging on the log wall.

The colors are warm and by using trapunto for one of the bottoms the composition has interest.

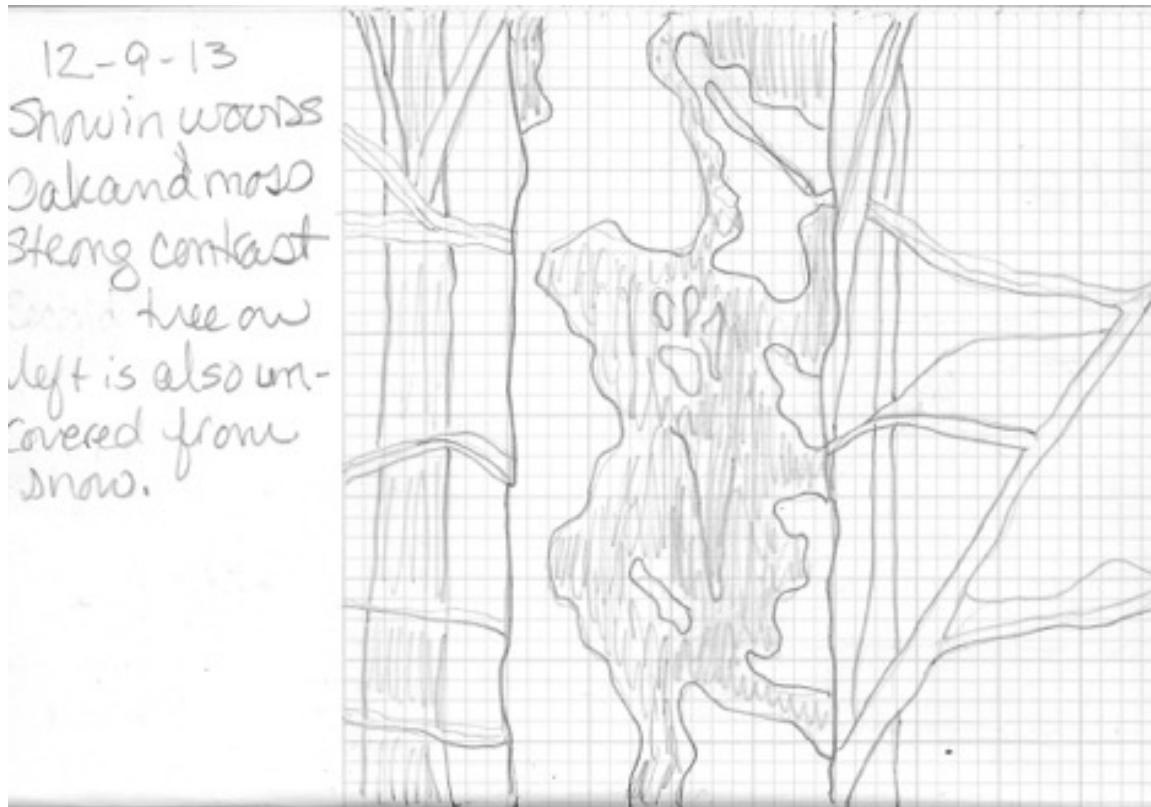
The second design suggests the skillets and makes them larger by overlapping the edge of square.



First heavy snow changed the shapes of our railings. How was I going to depict the soft snow?

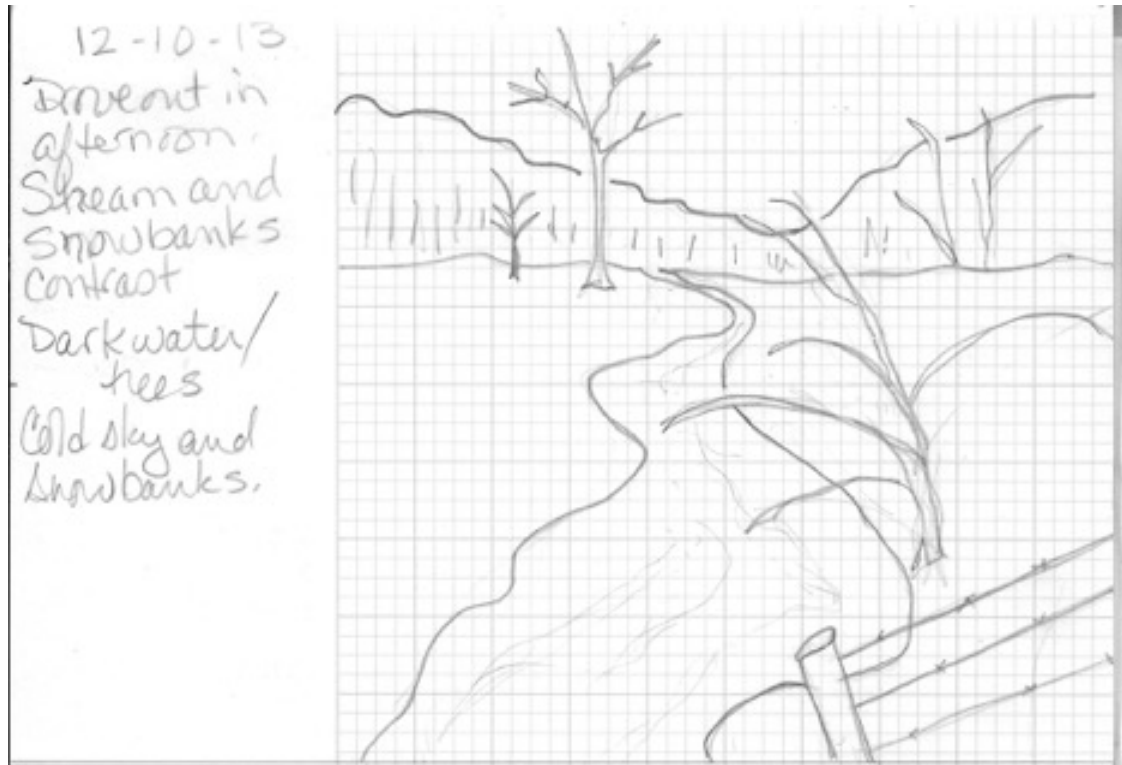
As you can see in the final project I gave up and went for color.

Interesting sketch and interesting hooked square. Success.

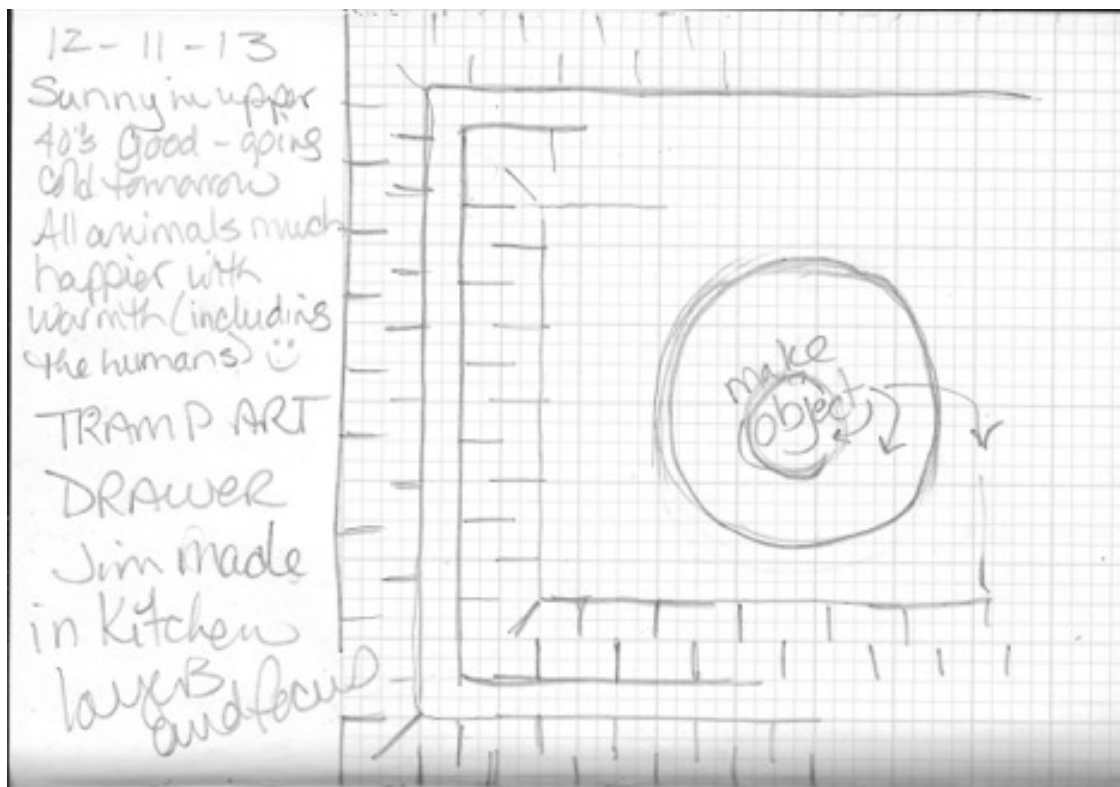


Driving around after a snow the woods look different. This sycamore tree was right on the road edge. I took a photo and then sketched this study.

Using alpaca yarn for the curling bark sections adds texture.

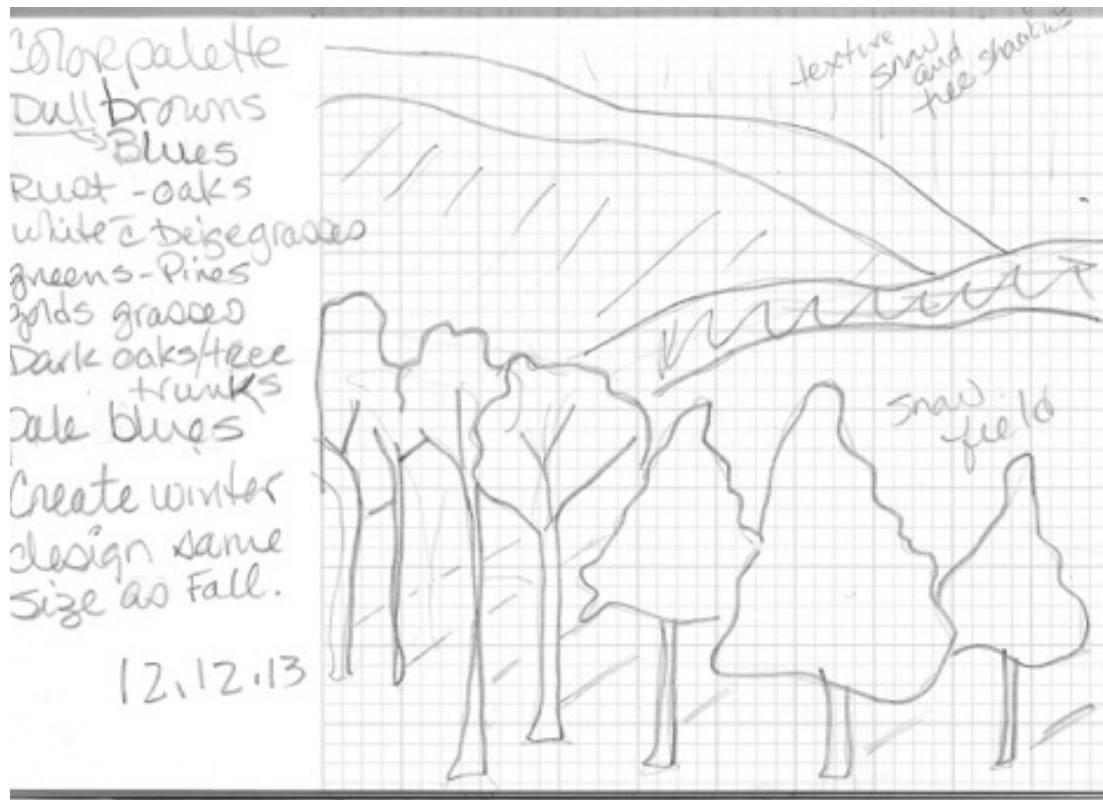


Another study of landscape with snow cover. The challenge was to develop depth while actually moving up the space with the dark creek.

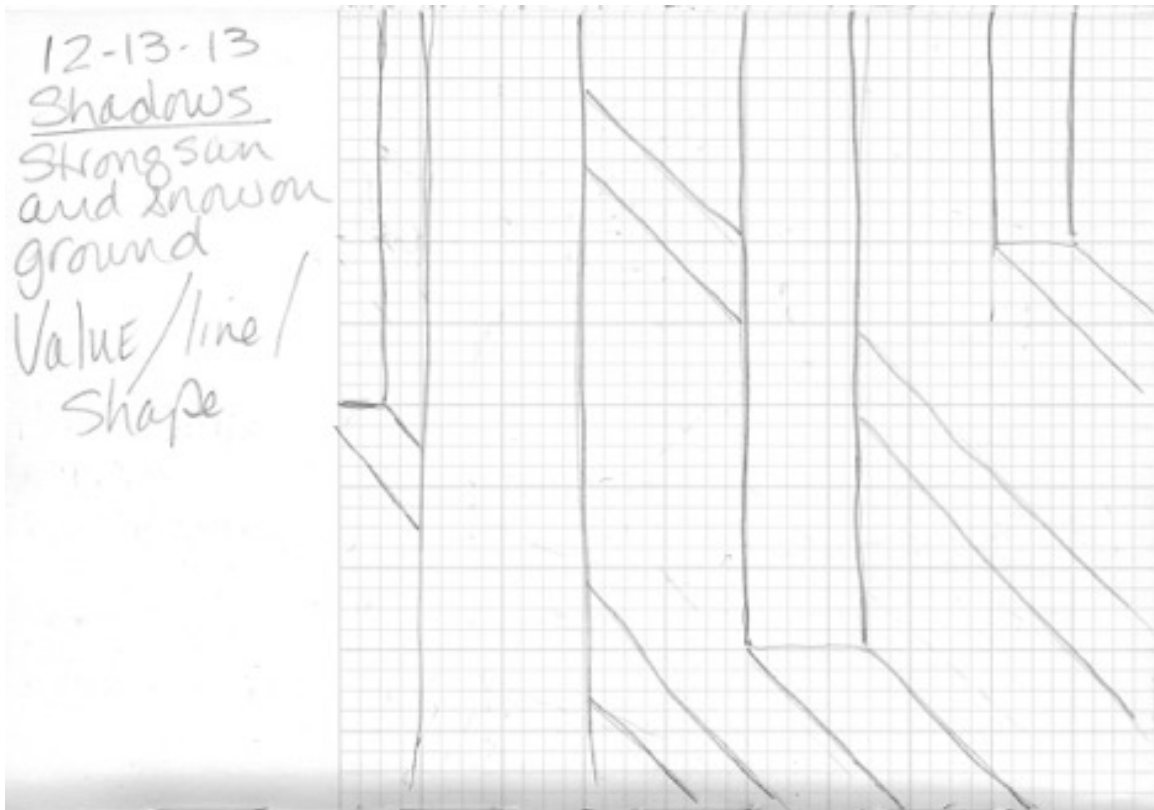


Back to inside for designs. This is the front of a drawer which Jim built. There are layers of different woods chip carved in the style of 'tramp art'. We have a hand blown glass door pull on the drawer.

Alternating contrasting strips mimic the chip carving technique. For fun I found the packaging that held ammunition shells turned over had a nice pattern. Just had to figure out how to attach it.



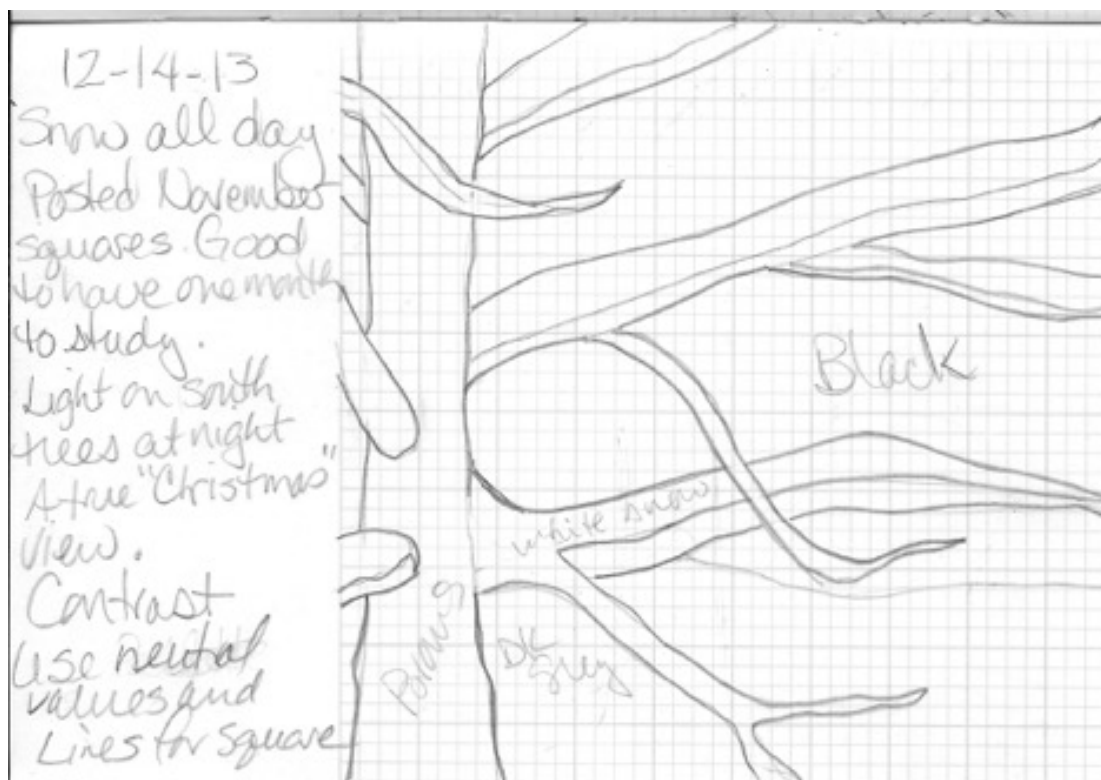
Landscapes are a favorite theme in the project. The seasons are changing. We look at different sections with snow falling and quieting the areas.



The light coming through the woods with snow on the ground casts shadows of different lengths and from different directions based on time of day. If you are looking south what time is it?

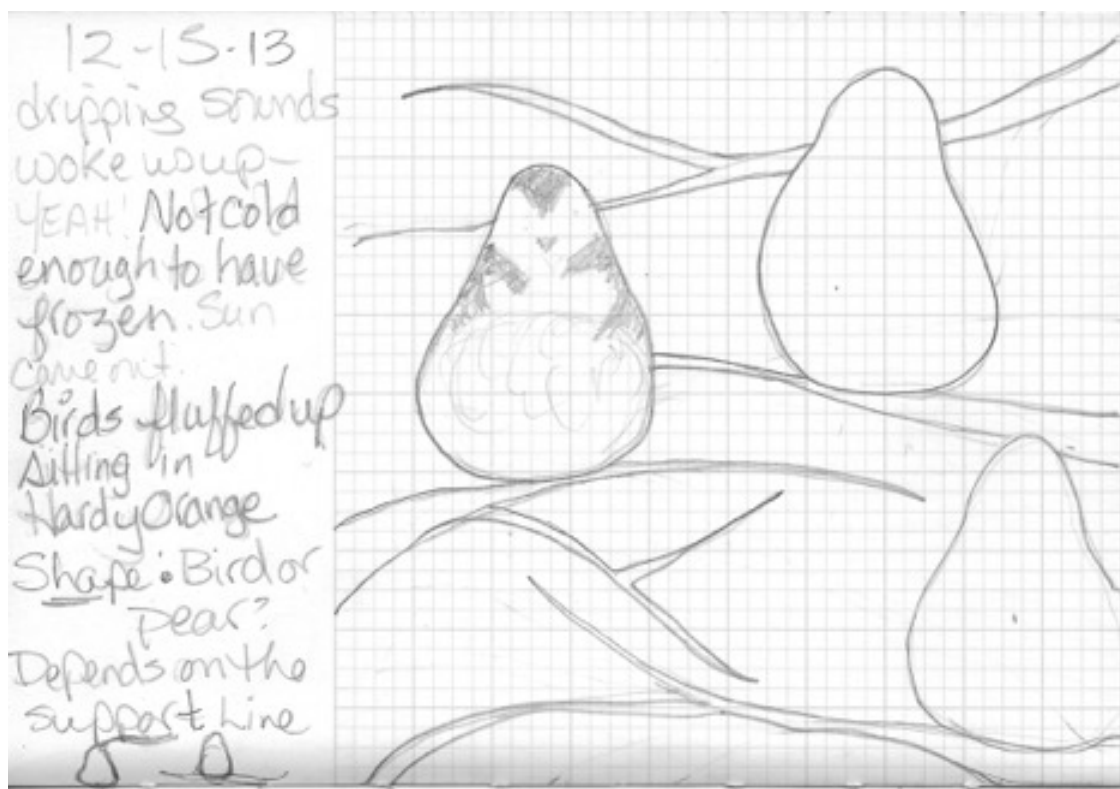
I used darker wools in the foreground trees which should have made them seem farther into the woods. Because the shadows “connect behind” each they advance.

By painting the backing there is real dimension on the square.



The trees look like single characters in the woods with moonlight on them.

I painted the backing and used white yarns for the snow.

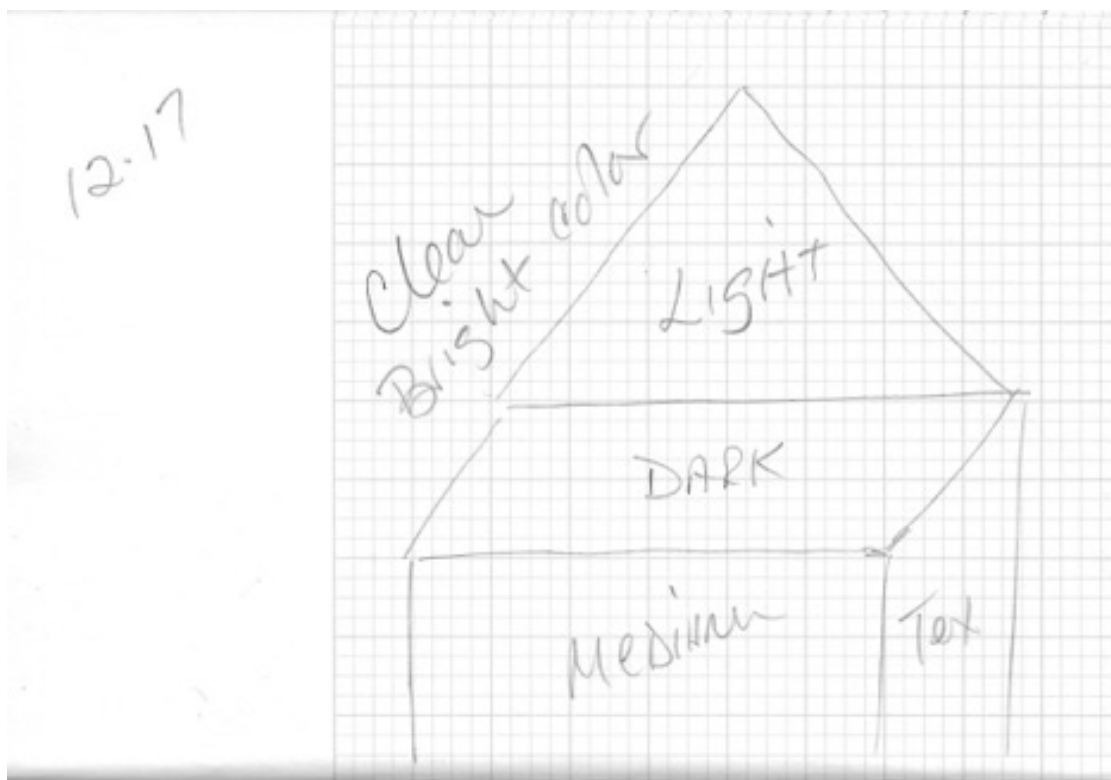


This flock of sparrows had settled onto the hardy orange tree limbs and chirped at me as I walked by. The shape I sketched could be colored and detailed in a variety of ways to depict several common objects.

With the shape “sitting” on the branch we see birds but if they were just under the same lines they look like pears.



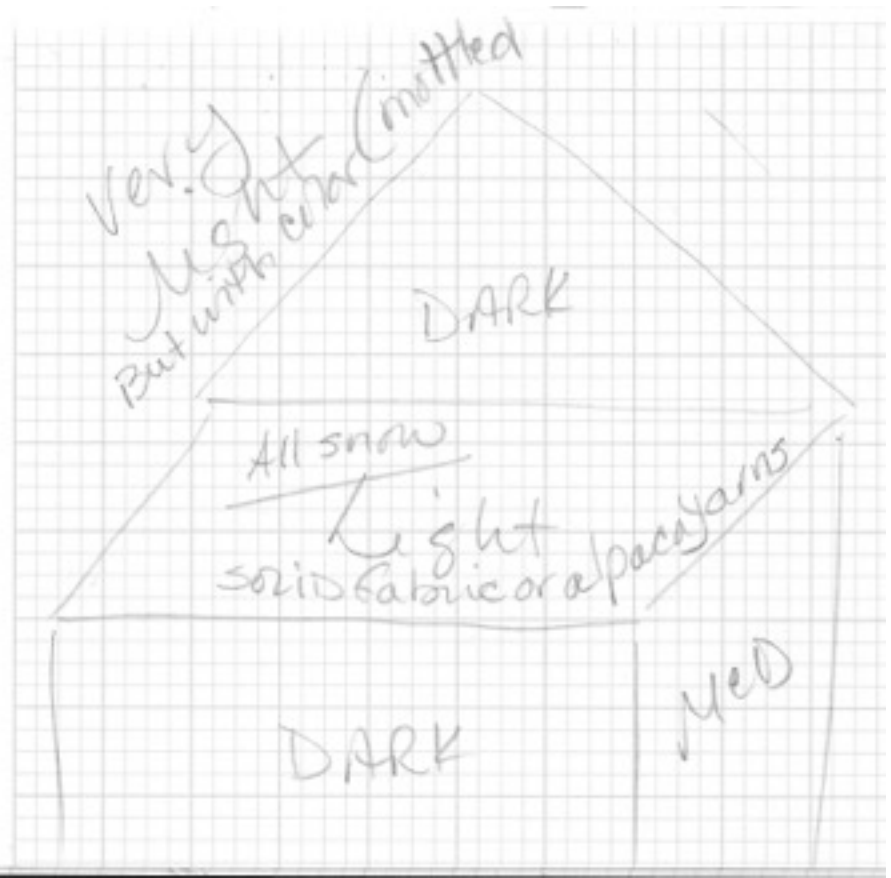
The barn again. By this time snow has fallen and the sketch indicates a section of roof covered with white.

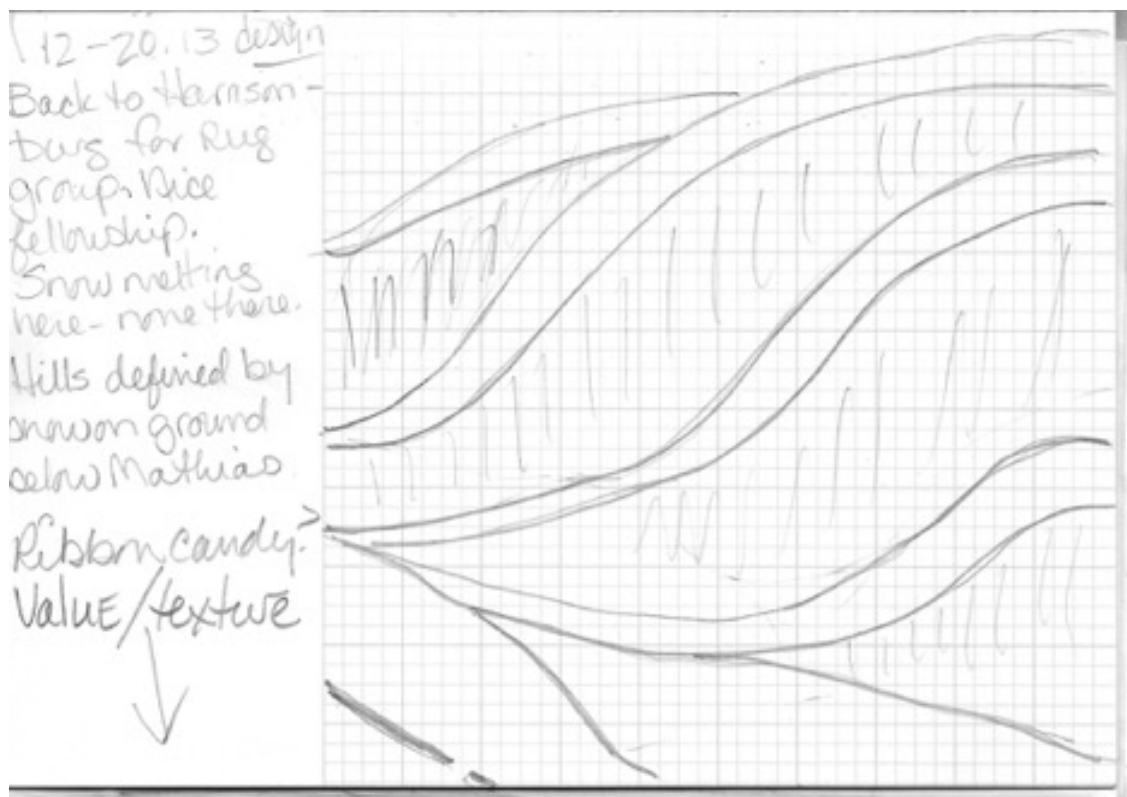


The barn again.

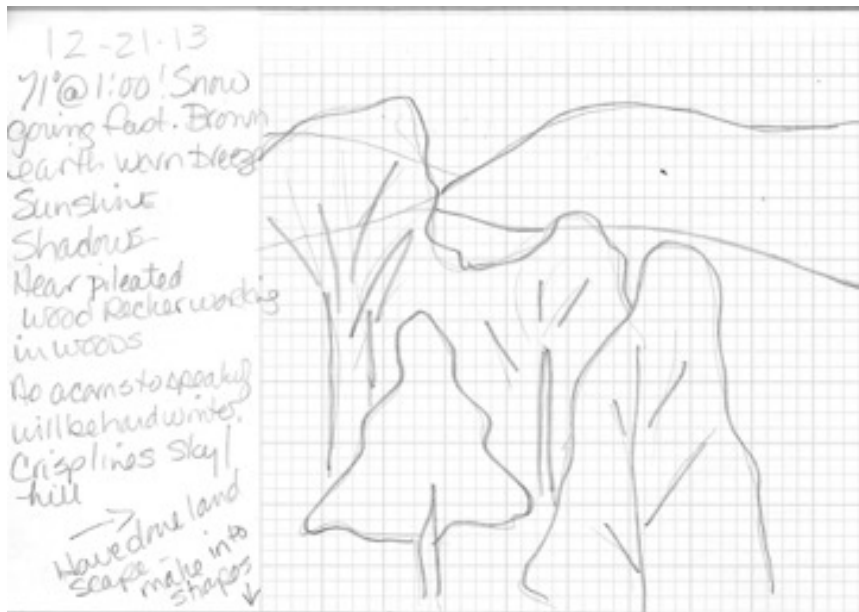
Applique' using wool fabric.

12.118

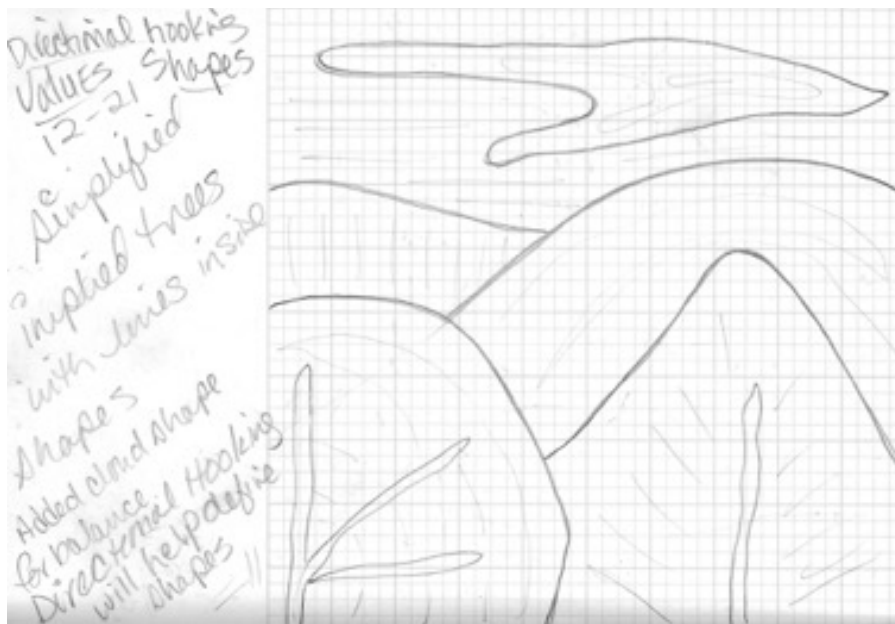




Line, Value and Texture depict the snow nestled into bare trees.



The first sketch is organic and in my style, realistic.



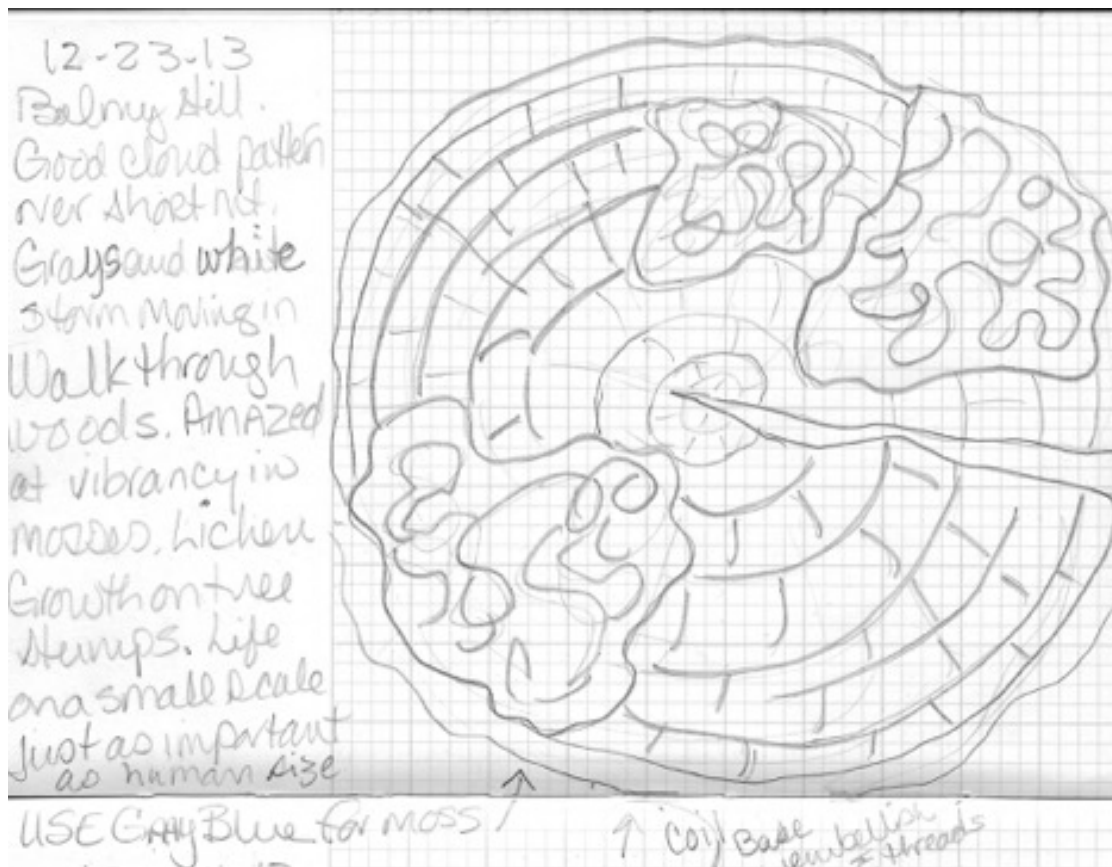
The second sketch simplified the trees and mountains into shapes.

Directional hooking emphasizes the subject each shape depicts.



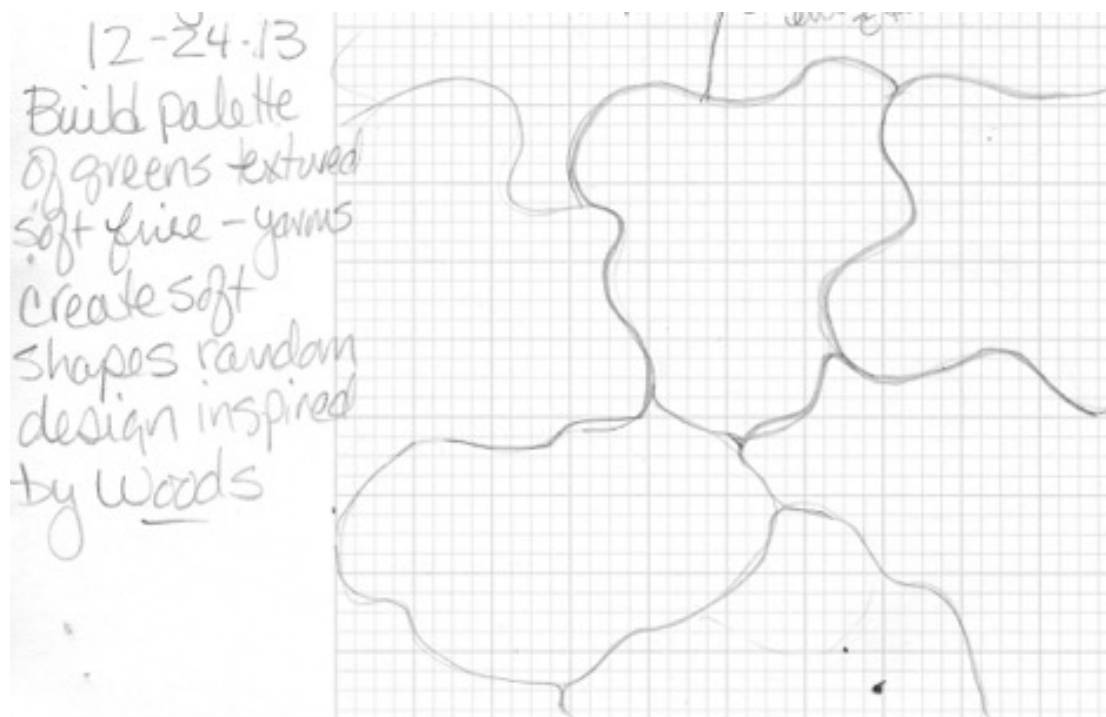
We studied an owl at the edge of the woods. Jim saw it in one tree and I in another. This was fun to work with soft fibers and the bold markings.

It was identified as an owl by the person who purchased it.

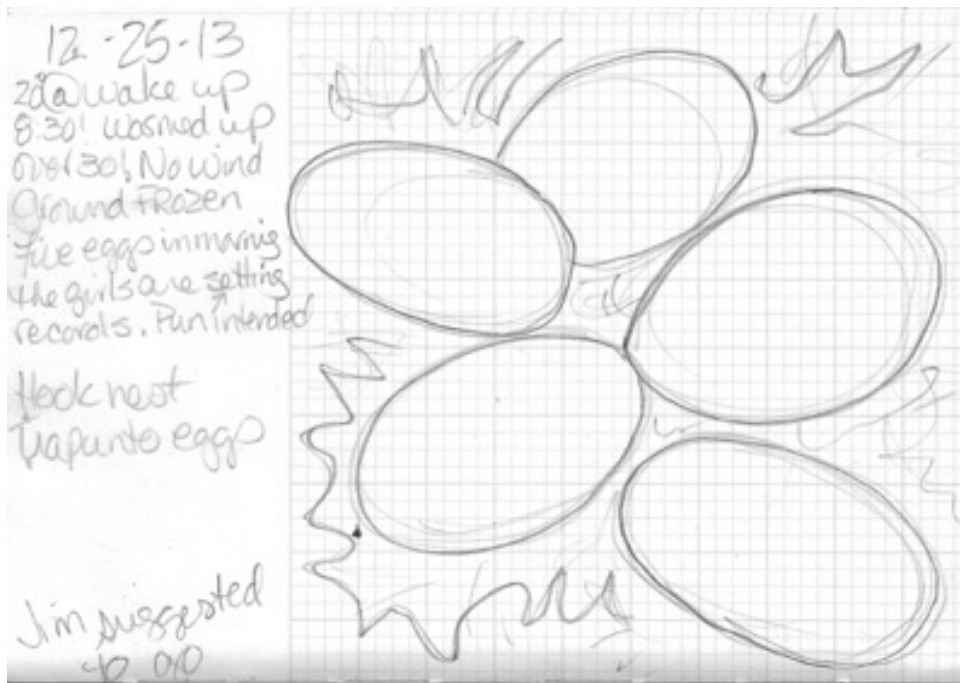


If I had to say which square was my favorite it is this one. The subject is an oak stump in our woods. From design to final piece I am happy.

The sections drawn could have been loops formed with wide strips. However I used a heavy hand spun yarn with transitional colors from gold through purple. The gold pearl cotton couched down the spirals. There are many fibers used in the mossy sections. For awhile I thought the circle was good as ending but finally painted the tiny corners to square it out.



Organic shapes filling the space. There are bright red tea berries in the woods and I added the shot of color to compliment the green mosses.

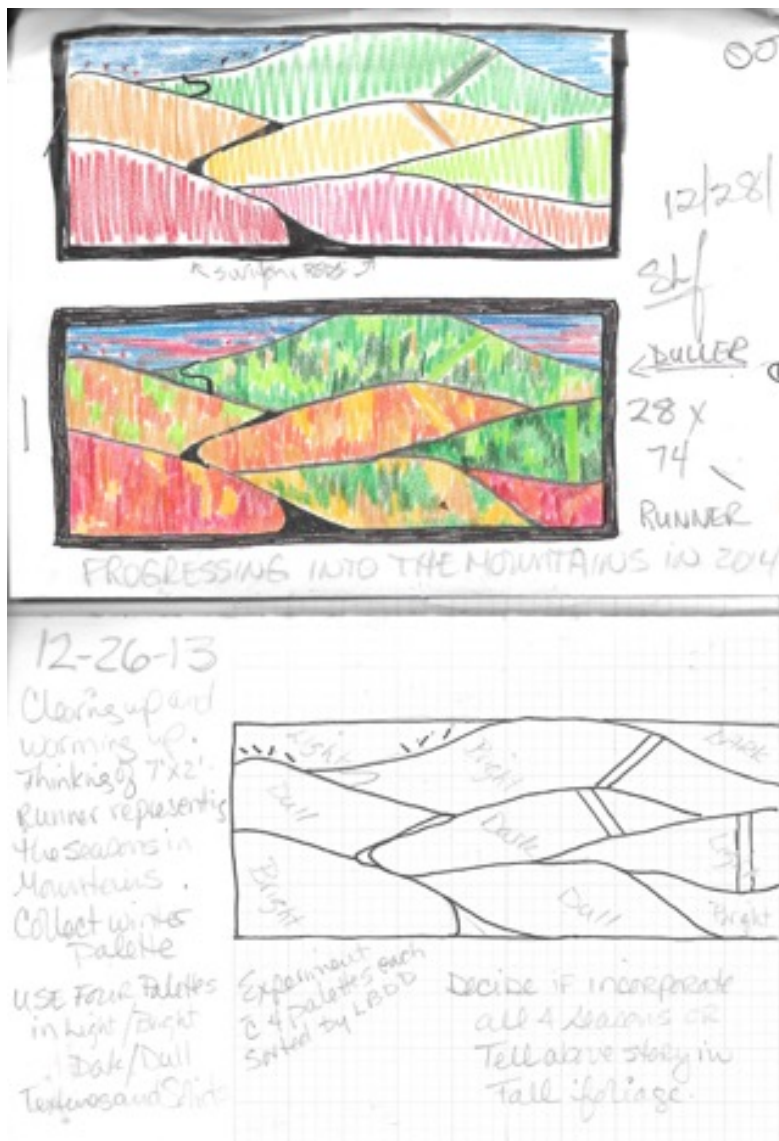


The design is executed using alpaca yarns and sculpting along with hooking.

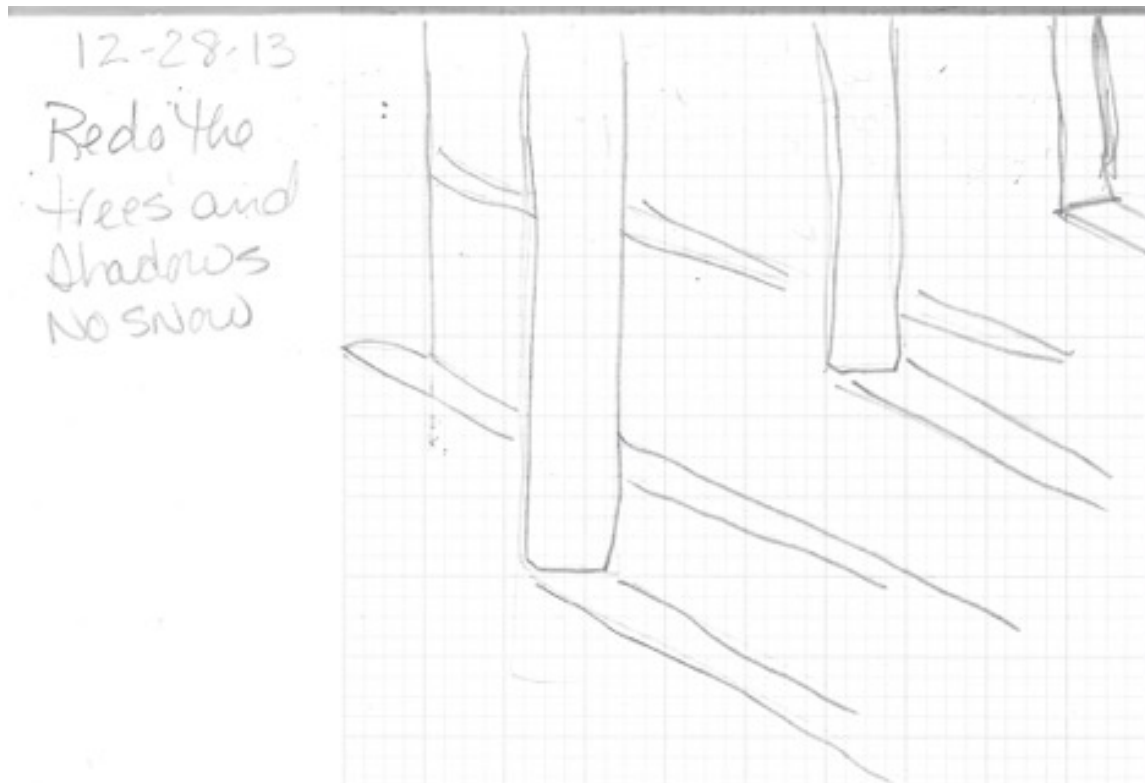
It is interesting to live with another artist. Jim suggested the design could become something else. We came up with a soccer ball and a flower.

The flower inspired a 36 x 18 hooked rug! **Holiday Bouquet** has been used in advertising and received great comments when posted on social media. [RuckmanMillFarm.com](http://RuckmanMillFarm.com) carries the rug pattern for sale.

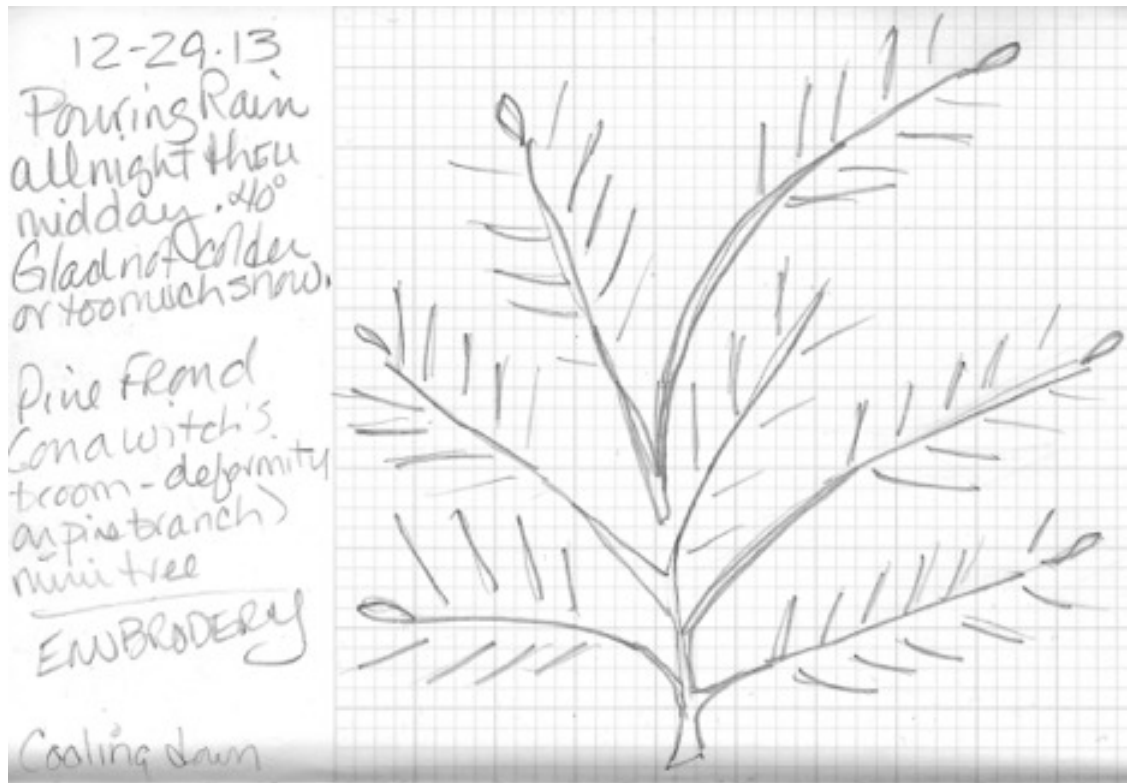
The rug is included in this exhibit.



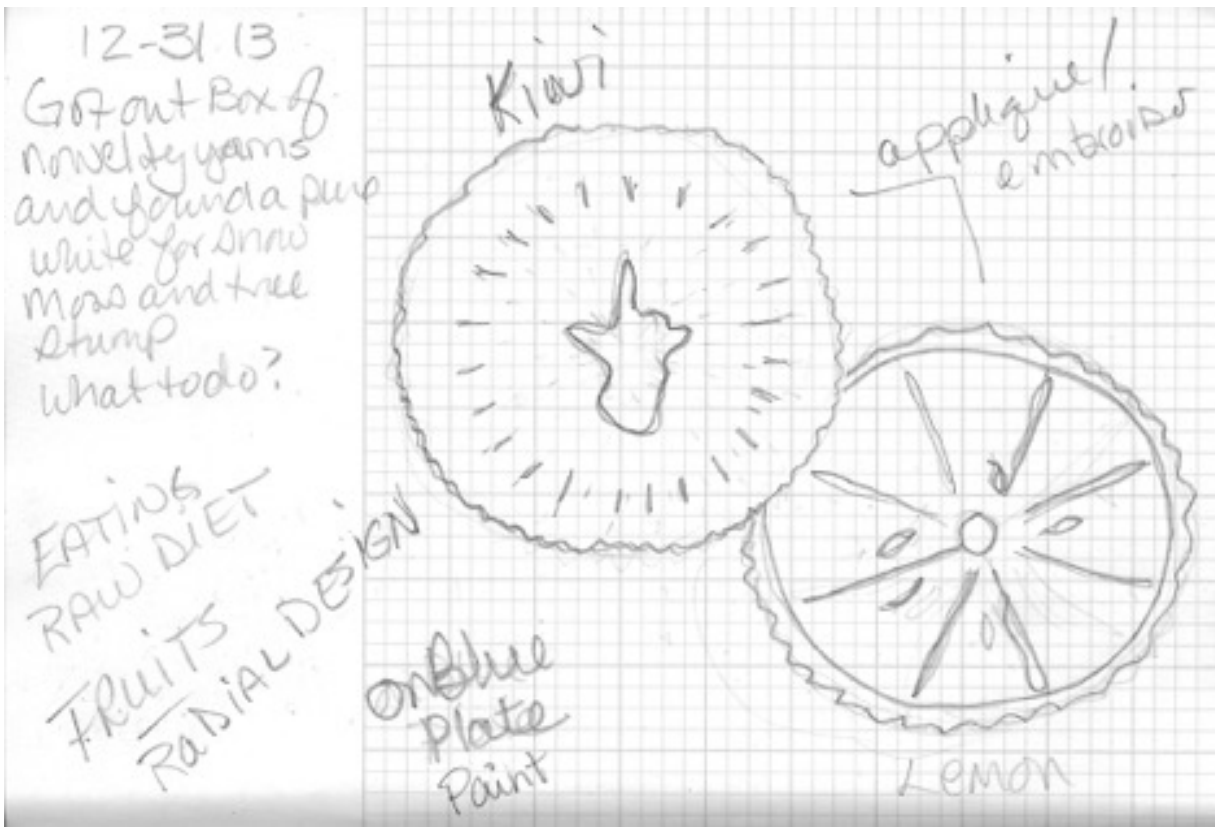
An environmental message I have been working on for several years is coming together. These studies help me resolve format, style and techniques.



The snow is gone making the woods all one again. The shadows help define shapes.



Enjoying sketching. This design is delicate and I decided to embroider on a quilted fabric.



Our diet is leaning toward raw fruit which is difficult in West Virginia winter.

These pieces of fruit were on a blue Fiestaware plate which inspired the painted background.